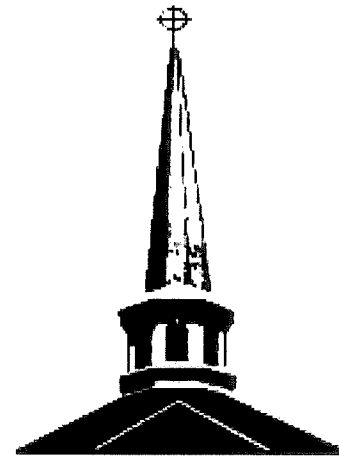


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Steeple to People

Potomac Presbyterian Church –
September 2010

Larry Duncan, *Interim Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Advisor*
Kendra Grams, *Associate for Spiritual Development*

ADULT EDUCATION

LIBRARY CLASS- September 12 & 19—Tom Miles—“Jesus:
Non-conformist, Radical Teacher; Heretical Preacher”
September 26- October 17—Dewey Wallace—“Puritan
Theologians React to the Challenge of the Modern: A Typology of
Calvinist Responses”
FELLOWSHIP HALL CLASS – 8 weeks - Rev. Duncan – “The
Kingdom Experiment”

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by
e-mail to steepoop@hotmail.com or place in “Steeple to People” box in the church office.

NEWS FROM REV. DUNCAN.... The summer was great fun, offering everyone a change of pace. I am sure that most of you enjoyed time with the family, time at the beach or in the mountains. Summer is a time when we can rest and recharge our batteries. I thoroughly enjoyed my summer playing with the grandsons and seeing some old friends. But now, I am excited about the fall here at PPC. We have a lot of great activities planned. On September 12, we will have our Rally Day when our church school program begins. This year we will do things a bit differently. We will have a brief opening with refreshments, and then the classes will begin for both children and adults. After the 11AM worship service, we will have a covered dish picnic on the church lawn with games for the children and a kickball game between the youth of the church and the church officers. (The latest line is the church officers by 2!) Everyone is asked to dress casually for the 12th.

I am excited about the fall because we have a new adult church school class beginning in the fellowship hall entitled “The Kingdom Experiment”. The class will not only study the Beatitudes but seek to put them into practice in their daily lives. Yours truly will teach the class.

I am excited about the fall at PPC because we will be having officer elections on September 26 and already the Nominating Committee has some great people to place in nomination. PPC is blessed with great leadership.

I am excited about the fall because the Search Committee for the Organist/Music Director has interviewed some promising candidates for the position and hopefully we will have someone on board soon.

I am excited about the fall because the Pastor Nominating Committee will submit their Church Information Form and begin receiving Pastor Information Forms from Ministers who have interest in the position.

I am excited about the fall because the Wednesday morning Bible study will resume on September 8 at 10 AM. This fall, they will be studying the Book of Hebrews.

(News from Rev. Duncan, continued)

As you can see, there will be a lot going on around this place during the fall. If you haven't been active in the life of the church for a while, this would be a great time for recommitment to PPC as you seek to strengthen your faith. I look forward to seeing all of you on Rally Day.
-Larry



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROGRESS UPDATE

The PPC Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been making wonderful progress, working through the pastoral search process and seeking to hear the call of Christ in this critical endeavor.

On August 16, the PNC presented the PPC Church Information Form (CIF) to the Session. The CIF is a critical piece of the search process, as it provides prospective candidates with information about the position we are seeking to fill and about our church and community. We are very pleased that the Session unanimously approved the CIF.

After the PNC has obtained the final required approvals from the National Capital Presbytery, we will post the CIF to the Presbyterian Church USA website (www.pcusa.org).

Once the CIF is posted, it will be matched with Personal Information Forms (PIF) that have been submitted by pastors seeking a new call to service. In addition, pastors who have an interest in PPC can also "self refer" and submit their PIFs.

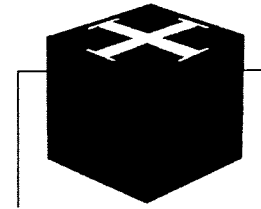
The PNC is also working with the PPC technology team which is redesigning the PPC website. The website will be the first impression most interested pastors will have about PPC and we believe a redesigned website will help better reflect PPC, its members and its activities. Once the new PPC Website has been launched, the PNC will submit the CIF to be posted at PCUSA.

The PNC has established an email address (potomacprespnc@gmail.com). All comments, questions and suggestions from the congregation are welcome. The PNC appreciates the support we have received from the congregation and we ask for your continued prayers as we search for our next pastor.



REMINDER - Contemporary Worship Service - will begin again on **Saturday evening, 5:30 p.m., October 2 and continue for 6 weeks.** Allison Crockett will return as Music Leader for the service. We hope that those who enjoyed this service will return and that it will attract potential members. It also provides an alternative for those not able to be at the

Sunday morning service. Please invite friends, acquaintances, and family members who have expressed an interest in this type of service to join us. This series will determine if PPC will continue this type of service. Comments may be sent to Dan Dowd, Chairman of the Task Force at 301-299-3835 or dvdowd@aol.com.



DEACON'S CORNER

Did you know that as part of the restructuring of PPC's officers' responsibilities, the Deacon's have formed a new Congregational Care Committee? This committee was formed to

serve church members short term needs such as:

- Providing transportation to evening church events or day time medical appointments
- Calling on members who are unable to attend church services
- Visiting hospitalized church members
- Providing food for members dealing with a serious illness or death in the family
- Coordinating and serving at receptions following memorial services held at PPC
- Providing household assistance such as grocery or pharmacy shopping

If you would like to take advantage of any of these new efforts to serve the needs of our members, please call the church office or any of the committee members and we will have a committee member or one of the many church members who have signed up to be a part of this new program contact you.

Committee Members: Olivia Mabeus- Chair, Bill King, Dan Drumheller, Sally O'Neal, Janine Henderson, John Clouse, Katherine Ling, Emily Petti and Molly Miller.



Are you new to FaceBook? Have you been on FaceBook for awhile but just haven't gotten around to being a "fan" of PPC? Please join us! We share photos, events and other items of interest. Last month we had 72 distinct visits to the page which means that people interested in PPC are visiting the page. Be a part of the fun and search under "Potomac Presbyterian Church" and click the "like" button. If you have questions, please email Ann Hill, annchill@gmail.com.



STEPHEN MINISTRY.....We have recently changed our display of "Care Notes", small booklets that address topics such as grief, healing, illness, anger, anxiety, depression, prayer and more. These are available to the congregation and will be on display in the Narthex. Current titles are:
• *Grieving in Your Own Way*, *Searching for Meaning in Your Loved One's Death*, *What Everyone Should Know about the 1st Year of Grief*, *Five Spiritual Pathways through Grief*, *How It Feels to have Cancer*, *When You're Anxious about Your Health*, *What Despair Can Teach Us about Hope*, *Letting the Bible Inspire Prayer*, *Pulling Together When You're Out of Work*. Please help yourself to these if you find a topic of interest.

Dine with Nine 2010 - 2011



You are cordially invited to evenings of dinner, fun and fellowship in the homes of some of your fellow Potomac Presbyterian Church members. These informal potluck dinners are a wonderful way to meet new members and make new friends. All new members are especially invited to these dinner events which will initially be scheduled by your host/hostess during the upcoming fall, winter and spring months. Signup sheets can be found in the Sunday bulletin beginning August 15 or contact Beth Rudnic for more information, (301) 869-4622 or brudnic@yahoo.com. Once groups are formed, the host/hostess will contact you with the date, time, and location of the first dinner. Deadline is Sunday, October 3, 2010.



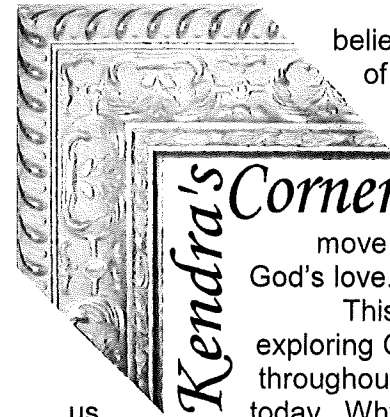
Notes from the Session Cal Reid, Clerk of Session

The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on August 16th. The primary topics of the meeting were twofold: interacting with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and revisions to the Endowment Committee policies.

The Session reviewed the PNC-prepared Church Information Form (CIF) that will be circulated/posted to describe our church and the Senior Pastor position that we plan to fill. The Session was very complimentary of the work that the PNC had done to complete the form; the posting on the PCUSA website is anticipated in the near term.

Two other actions were taken by the Session to 1) establish a salary range for the Senior Pastor, and 2) establish a working budget for the PNC over the balance of 2010 and for 2011.

Representatives from the Endowment Committee also met with the Session to propose four amendments to the policies governing gifts made to PPC. These amendments will clarify the distinction between memorial gifts and gifts to the general endowment fund. Among the changes: the general endowment has been renamed as the PPC Endowment Fund to more clearly identify this fund. Cal Reid, 8/22/10

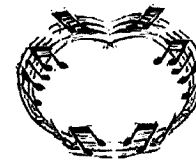


With a great summer quickly coming to a close, it is hard to believe that school is starting again—and with it another exciting year of church programming. So much is already in the works! Just as this past year has been one of transition with all its joys and challenges, so too will this coming year be. Searches are underway in earnest to find the people who God is calling to serve this church as Pastor and Director of Music. Still, we move forward with new ideas, growing energy, and an abundance of God's love.

This year in Sunday School (and in the youth ministry) we'll be exploring God's Messengers, learning what they said to God's people throughout the centuries, and considering what their message means for us and sisters in the United Church of Christ—"God is still speaking," (Notice the comma.) This sentence doesn't end because God's word is new everyday. God is still speaking to us and guiding us through the Spirit—through prayer, through the voices of our Christian community, through the still small voices that live within us.

I really can't think of a better focus for this year when we move more fully into the future together—this year where we seek new professional leadership, continue to explore one another's gifts, and seek God's vision and will for PPC. I hope that you all join us in seeking God's word not only through worship, but through the variety of educational opportunities that we have planned—beginning **September 12th—RALLY DAY. Sunday School will be at 9:45am and worship at 11am.** See the insert for more specific information on classes being offered for all age groups and for more specifics regarding Rally Day.

Grace and peace, Kendra



THANK YOU FROM CINDY WRIGHT

Lynn and I want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the thoughtfully planned farewell events, worship service, program, gifts, tributes and cards given in our honor the weekend of July 25th. Your gracious and most generous responses to my eighteen years of serving PPC as director of music and organist are indeed over-whelming and very heart-warming. The scrapbook of precious memories and the beautifully etched, cut-glass bowl will continue to remind us of our treasured friendships in this unique church community. I am excitedly considering options for your monetary gift. Assuredly, the final decision will have a musical connection. Lynn is honored to be sending his gift to the Presbyterians still in need in New Orleans. We both say a big thank-you for all you have done and for the special place you hold in our hearts. Yours in gratitude and love, Cindy

MISSION NEWS..... MISSION TO ECUADOR

The Por Cristo Cardiac Team will leave for Quito, Ecuador on our 21st annual mission October 1, 2010. During this intense 8 day mission we will further the education and skills of our Ecuadorian colleagues at the Baca Ortiz Hospital for Children. Over the past many years our efforts have significantly improved the cardiac care of many children.

This years' team will add to the usual schedule of lectures, surgeries, sonograms and catheterizations, the introduction of a clinical data base and the beginning of outcomes reporting.

The collection and review of results is an important step in the "maturing" of the cardiovascular program in Quito. Of course, the accurate reporting and analysis of results always requires respectful cooperation from all participants. We feel that the relationships that exist between the Por Cristo Team and the Ecuadorian Physicians will allow success in this next important process. To aid this plan we will contribute not only the usual supply of needed medicines and equipment, but also several complete desktop computer systems and programs.

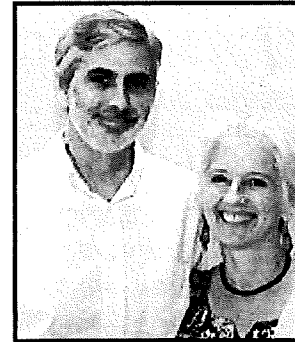
Quito 2010 will have 12 volunteers from six top US Medical Centers, many of whom have participated for 15 years or more.

The PPC Mission Committee and others have generously contributed to our mission. The Team and the cardiac kids in Quito are grateful.

Peace to all, Tom Hougen, Team Leader



MORE MISSION NEWS.....



Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan, PC(USA) Mission Co-workers in Bangladesh supported by Potomac Presbyterian Church, are in the U.S. for the month of August and are not writing Prayers for Bangladesh during this time. The happy occasion which brings them back to the states is to attend their daughter Laura's wedding in Minneapolis on August 21st. Laura works there as a government lawyer in an immigration court. They will also spend a few days in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas and visit family in Louisiana.

The Morgans have recently sent PPC a Newsletter with an update on their fieldwork in Bangladesh. This summer they moved their residence in Dhaka from the newer north end of town to the older south end, an area called Old Dhaka. Old Dhaka is a more congested and impoverished area, but the location is more convenient for their work in the various area hospitals and health clinics which they assist. Also located in Old Dhaka is St. Andrew's Theological College where Cindy and Les have started teaching a course entitled "The Healing Ministry of the Church". The goal is to prepare students to serve the sick compassionately while also addressing the root causes of their suffering.

Leslie sends thanks to congregations which support their ministry in Bangladesh and writes, "Although the decision to move to Old Dhaka was not easy, being here allows us to nurture deeper relationships with the sick and needy. Ministering in the name of Christ to those who suffer is part of the church's evangelical calling to bear witness to the gospel. We pray that our presence, our words, our touch, and our friendship may themselves be part of that proclamation."

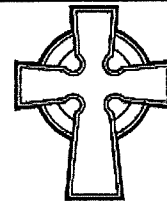
Carolyn Stump, Mission Committee



Our prayers are with *Vicky Dunlop*, Doug Dunlop's sister; *Members of the Armed Forces*; *Teresa Cox*, David Boyd's sister; *Stephen Kirchner*; *Jamey and Debbie Leathers*, brother and sister-in-law of Susan Mitchell; *Silvia Fitton*, mother of Bobbe Hartzog, in hospital in Michigan; *Compton Jones*, recovering at home; *Virginia Savage*, recovering at home; *Mary Avelar*.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to *Del Smith and family* on the loss of his aunt, Mildred Kotvis, on August 4 and to *Ed Clark and family* on the loss of his wife, Janet, on August 19. A Memorial Service will be held on **Saturday, September 18 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Ed's address is 701 King Farm Blvd., Apt. 342, Rockville, MD 20850

Endowment Committee



Therefore, my beloved brethren,
be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:58

For information on the General Endowment, Memorial Endowments and Steeple Society please see Rev. Larry Duncan or any member of the Endowment Committee:

Chris Dowd, Chair David Fowler Gregg Johnson Elsie Reid Ed Tennent



Listening to those who have gone before and learning to be God's messengers today

Rally Day & Potluck Picnic September 12

We have new and exciting plans for Rally Day this year. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am for a brief opening (coffee and light refreshments provided) and then everyone is invited to join their respective Sunday School classes at 9:45am. In addition, following Sunday School and worship, we'll head outside (or gather in Fellowship Hall in case of

inclement weather) for an all-church potluck and picnic. So, wear casual clothes; bring a dish to share; and come ready for fun, games, and fellowship. Cups, plates, and utensils will be provided. We'll have games and relay races for young and old (including a kick-ball face-off between the youth of the church and the church officers).

Sunday School—9:45 am-10:45 am

Children will engage various Bible stories about God's messengers and the wisdom they shared, learning through repetition, imagination, and class participation.

3-5 Yr olds (downstairs-room 3)

K-2nd Grade (downstairs in Room 5)

3rd-5th Grade (downstairs in Room 4)

Middle School Students, 6th-8th grade (upstairs) are invited to begin "connecting the dots." This year we will take a walk through the New Testament to gain a deeper understanding of the "Big Picture" story that the Bible tells. This interactive journey with Jesus and the early church will be fun for all and will lay a firm foundation for future confirmation experiences.

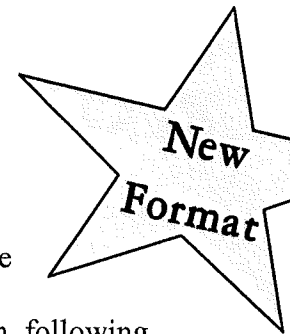
Senior High Students, 9th-12th grade (upstairs) will begin our year with an in-depth study of the Beatitudes using *The Kingdom Experiment: Youth Edition*. But this won't be your regular Bible study. We'll certainly talk about what Jesus meant by his seemingly outlandish claims, but then we'll try to live into his instructions—and see what happens. Come join us for the journey. It may not be easy, but then again, the things that really matter rarely are.

Adult Library Class—Weekly guest speakers and/or members of our congregation lead this lecture and discussion class for adults of all ages.

- *Sept. 12 & 19*—Tom Miles—"Jesus: Non-Conformist, Radical Teacher, Heretical Preacher"
- *Sept. 26, Oct. 3, 10, & 17*—Dewey Wallace, George Washington University—"Puritan Theologians React to the Challenge of the Modern: A Typology of Calvinist Responses"

Adult Fellowship Class—Starting Sept. 12 a new adult class will be held in the Fellowship Hall. During the first 8-week session, we will study the book entitled *The Kingdom Experiment*, which is not only an in-depth study of the Beatitudes, but also a challenge to put the Beatitudes into practice in one's daily living. Call the church office to reserve your place in the class and to order your copy of the book. Cost is \$10.00 each.

NURSERY CARE: While children are always welcome in worship, nursery care is available every Sunday morning from 9:30am-12:30am (during the Sunday School hour and worship). The nursery is located in the lower level Christian education wing of the church.



POTLUCK GUIDE

If possible, please bring the following in order to insure a bountiful and balanced lunch...

- Last names A-CI: Green salad or pasta salad
- Last names Co-Dr: Crock Pot Meals (chili, etc)—plug-ins available in the kitchen during Sunday School and worship
- Last names Du-Hi: Finger Foods/Mini Sandwiches
- Last names Ho-La: Bread or side dish
- Last names Le-Mc: Fruit
- Last names Me-Sc: Dessert
- Last names Se-Z: Drinks (soda, juice, tea, etc)

Children's Enrichment Activities

Children's Worship

While children are always welcome in worship, children **age 3 through 2nd grade** are also welcome to join us for their own Children's Worship program downstairs following "Children at Worship." Children continue their worship through storytelling, games, song, and creative activities before returning to the sanctuary at the end of the service to conclude worship with the entire church family.

Bridges to Worship—3rd grade

From Sept. 12—Oct. 24, **third-graders** are invited downstairs following "Children at Worship" to learn more about each element of worship through games and activities as they transition from Children's Worship to full participation in worship. At the conclusion of this 7-week enrichment opportunity, on Oct. 31, the third-graders will be presented with a Bible in celebration of their growth in faith and involvement in the life of the church.

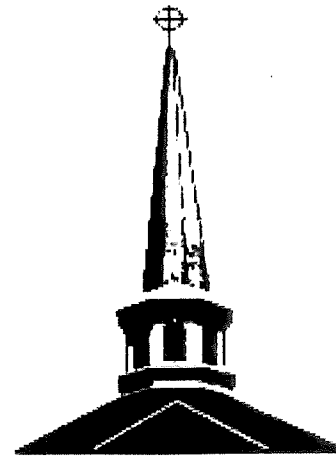
September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	2 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Organist Search Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	3	4
5 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	6 LABOR DAY ~ Office Closed ~	7 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues)	8 9:30 a.m. Bible Study begins 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	9 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Organist Search Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	10	11
12 Rally Day & Church School Kick- Off 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Opening 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Communion Teacher Commissioning 12 :00 p.m. Church Picnic	13 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon)	14 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 nd & 4 th Tues.)	15 STP Deadline 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting 7:30 p.m. M.O.S. Meeting	16 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Organist Search Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	17	18 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
19 9:45 a.m. Library Class & Fellowship Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12 :00 p.m. Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Manor Care Service	20 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	21 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.)	22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	23 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Organist Search Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	24	25
26 9:45 a.m. Library Class & Fellowship Class 11:00 a.m. Worship 12 :00 p.m. Fellowship 12:15 p.m. Congregational Meeting - Election of Officers 4:00 p.m. Ingleside Service 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group	27 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	28 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 nd & 4 th Tues.)	29 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	30 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:30 p.m. Organist Search Committee Meeting		

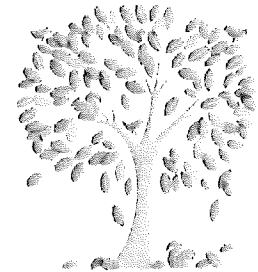
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Steeple to People



Potomac Presbyterian Church
October 2010

NEWS FROM REV. DUNCAN.....

October holds the promise for many opportunities for worship and fellowship. **October 3, 2010 is World Communion Sunday** when we celebrate the "wideness of God's mercies." Hymns will be drawn from various nations. Many elements in the worship will be spoken in different languages. The litanies will be taken from various Reformed churches around the world and the sermon will be entitled, "A Whale of a Story" as we look at the Book of Jonah.

On **October 17**, the annual **Tailgate Party** will be held immediately after worship. This year, there will be a new twist. We will have the Calvin Bowl football game with the officers playing the youth. The Calvin Bowl will be complete with a kazoo marching band and the crowning of our Calvin Bowl Homecoming Queen. Don't miss this event!

On **October 31**, which is **Reformation Sunday**, we will have the second annual Scottish Heritage Sunday featuring bagpipes and the Kirkin' of the Tartan. The sermon that day will be entitled, "The Marks of a True Church" and we will look at what our Reformed ancestors thought made the church, the church.

I look forward to seeing everyone at these special worship services and special events.
-Larry

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROGRESS UPDATE



The CIF has been posted!

The PPC Church Information Form (CIF) received all the required approvals and has been posted to the Presbyterian Church USA website (www.pcusa.org). The PNC will make the CIF available for all to view at potomacpresbyterianchurch.org in the very near future. The CIF is a critical piece of the search process, as it provides prospective candidates with information about the position we are seeking to fill and about our church and community.

Larry Duncan, *Interim Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Advisor*
Kendra Grams, *Associate for Spiritual Development*

ADULT EDUCATION

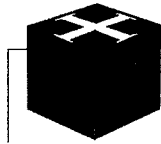
LIBRARY CLASS- September 26- October 17—Dewey Wallace—
"Puritan Theologians React to the Challenge of the Modern: A Typology of Calvinist Responses"

October 24 - Reverend John Lee, Pastor, Rockville Korean Presbyterian Church: "Reformed Theological Perspective on Global Pentecostalism."

October 31 - Ann White - The Reformed Institute, "Therapeutic Moralistic Deism—Will We Let It Hijack Our Kids?"

FELLOWSHIP HALL CLASS – 8 weeks - Rev. Duncan – "The Kingdom Experiment"

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by E-mail to steepoop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office. STP now available on the website, www.potomacpresbyterianchurch.org



DEACON'S CORNER - Occasionally, people ask me why

I go to church. Seldom is it a non-believer; most often it's someone who believes in God but doesn't attend, citing the challenges of getting to church and the commitment to a spiritual community. Often I'll hear that participation in "formal" religion isn't a requisite for salvation—"I (or we) worship in other ways."

I can understand where some are coming from. After all, getting my sons Ryan and Matthew into "church clothes" and to worship on time is a challenge, to put it mildly. I think many days it'd be easier to give up and let them stay in their pajamas. After all, can 5- and 3-year olds really understand the message?

Several weeks ago, just after worship, my wife Stephanie had accused Ryan of being responsible for initiating one of the many brawls the boys get into at home. Turned out, however, Matthew had been the instigator. After realizing what had happened, Stephanie asked Ryan, "Can you forgive me?" Ryan responded matter-of-factly, "Sure, mom, 70 times seven."

As you may guess, I was surprised and proud—but also embarrassed at having only a vague recollection of the passage to which Ryan had referred. Thank God for Google, which in seconds got me to Matthew 18:21-22: "When Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'"

Clearly, a lesson from Children's Worship on forgiveness stuck with Ryan—at least for the afternoon—but it also stuck with me. Again, as all parents humbly experience, my kids taught me something. Aside from the immediate scripture lesson on enduring forgiveness, it told me that making a commitment to attend church is worth it and, "yes," kids really do get the message, at least sometimes. And that's just one of many reasons—but possibly the most important—I go to church. -Mike Kunst

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY - If you would like to read other books about the subject matter of the classes you have selected to attend, you can find them on the book carts. Commentaries are on the shelves. Take a look. New books can be found on the book cart also.

Freeing the Dead Sea Scrolls and other Adventures of an Archaeology Outsider by Hershel Shanks is a new book that was suggested for purchase. The reviews were great. Mr. Shanks was a successful attorney when he visited the Holy Land. That visit changed his life and from then on he devoted himself to the study of biblical archaeology. Fascinating reading!

Deep Church: A Third Way Beyond Emerging and Traditional by Jim Belcher also has had wonderful reviews. C.S. Lewis described the body of believers committed to mere Christianity as "Deep Church". The last new book to view is *Theology For A Troubled Believer: An Introduction to the Christian Faith* by Diogenes Allen. One of America's most respected theologians and philosophers offer a reaffirming guide to Christian beliefs for lively and inquiring minds. Happy Reading! -Nancy Tietjen

(Pastor Nominating Committee Progress Update, continued)

Initially, the CIF will be automatically matched by PCUSA with Personal Information Forms (PIF) that have been submitted by pastors seeking a new call to service. In addition to the automatic match, pastors who have an interest in PPC can also "self refer" and submit their PIFs. The PNC will also advertise the position at select Presbyterian seminaries which can spread the word to their alumni.

Once the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) begins to receive PIFs, we will begin a process of evaluating the submissions, requesting more information, performing telephone interviews and personal interviews, hearing candidates preach and, ultimately, heeding the call of Christ to select the next pastor for PPC.

The PNC has established an email address (potomacprespnc@gmail.com). If you know of any pastors you would like to recommend to the PNC, please email the PNC or speak to a PNC member. As always, all comments, questions and suggestions from the congregation are welcome. The PNC appreciates the support we have received from the congregation and we ask for your prayers as we search for our next pastor.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee: Rob Wescott – Co-Chair, Cathryn White – Co-Chair, Doug Baarman, Joyce Jenkins, Paul Mamalian, Bob Plumb, Sonia Russo, Greta Van Brunt

Notes from the Session Cal Reid, Clerk of Session

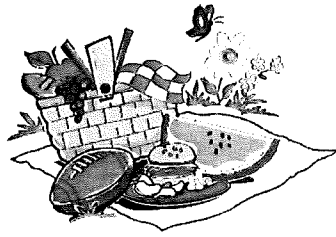
The Session met for its regular monthly meeting on September 20th. During this meeting the Session again discussed the merits of a fall series of Contemporary Services that would mirror the six-week trial that was conducted in the spring. A decision was reached to table further Contemporary Services at PPC for now. In the process of reflecting upon the many positive aspects of the spring trial, Reverend Duncan and Kendra noted that it is possible to include several of the features from the Contemporary Service into our regular Sunday worship; an example mentioned was the possible incorporation of congregational concerns and joys into the Sunday morning prayers as a way to make the Sunday service more personal to the congregation.

The Session heard from Reverend Duncan regarding how several of his prior churches had organized their Board of Deacons. Some churches, even churches larger than PPC, have gone to a unicameral organization with only a Session. Recalling the PPC reorganization from last year, it was noted that our efforts to elevate the office of Deacon and create Deacon-led committees could be viewed as a step in that direction. On this basis, the Session voted to recommend to the congregation that the Board of Deacons be reduced to nine members, and this year's officer ballot will reflect that change. Results from this change will be periodically reviewed and reconsidered.

In response to a motion from Christian Education, the Sunday School offering will be targeted to a special purpose fund that is tangible to PPC's children. CE is exploring a fund that provides Teddy Bears to emergency response vehicles; the bears are used to comfort young children involved in accidents and emergencies. Cal Reid, 9/22/10

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS.....

Mark Your Calendars for the Fourth Annual Tailgate Picnic followed by our own PPC Calvin Bowl on October 17 at Fellowship Hour



The Fellowship Committee invites our congregation to another festive Tailgate Picnic followed by the newly initiated Calvin Bowl, spearheaded by our own Pastor Larry Duncan. Please dress casually, enjoy scrumptious barbeque during Fellowship Hour and plan on participating in another

lively competition among our youth and congregants!!

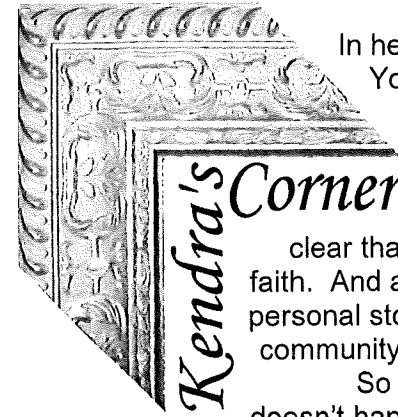
The suggested donation is \$5.00 for those over 12 years and free for the under 12 years. The profits will benefit our Workcamp initiatives. We look forward to hosting this fine annual event!!
Susan Hougen, Chair, Fellowship Committee

Dine with Nine - 2010 – 2011 - You are cordially invited to evenings of dinner, fun and fellowship in the homes of some of your fellow Potomac Presbyterian Church members. These informal potluck dinners are a wonderful way to meet new members and make new friends. All new members are especially invited to these dinner events which will initially be scheduled by your host/hostess during the upcoming fall, winter and spring months. Signup sheets can be found in the Sunday bulletin or contact Beth Rudnic for more information, (301) 869-4622 or brudnic@yahoo.com. Once groups are formed, the host/hostess will contact you with the date, time, and location of the first dinner. Deadline is Sunday, October 3, 2010.



..... Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; Members of the Armed Forces; Teresa Cox, David Boyd's sister; Stephen Kirchner, Jamey and Debbie Leathers, brother and sister-in-law of Susan Mitchell; Sylvia Fitton, mother of Bobbe Hartzog, recovering from surgery; Compton Jones, recovering at home; Virginia Savage, recovering at home; Mary Larkin, mother of Penny Boyd, in the hospital in Texas; Sonia Russo, recovering from surgery at home; Jim Dart, recovering from surgery at home; Claude Gordon, at Shady Grove Hospital.

We celebrate with joy Claude Gordon's 90th Birthday on September 21!
Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to Nancy Tietjen and family on the loss of her husband, Bob, on September 16; Pat King and family, on the loss of her brother, Paul Latimer, on September 3; Merrily Tovmassian and family on the loss of her mother, Marge Minaberry, on September 14. We share their grief but also share in the hope of the life of the resurrection eternal.



In her most recent book, *Almost Christian*, Kenda Creasy Dean, Youth Ministry scholar and former Berger Lecturer here at PPC, makes some bold claims about the faith of 21st century teens.

She says that many of them have an "imposter" faith—they have been taught to see God as a "divine therapist" whose chief goal is to boost people's self-esteem. However, she is clear that some teens have found/been given a real, honest, engaged faith. And among these teens, there are four common traits: they have a personal story about God they can share, a deep connection to a faith community, a sense of purpose, and a sense of hope about their future.

So how do we ensure that our young people have these things? It doesn't happen by luck and wishing it to be so. It happens through

intentional living and doing.

For the month of December, we hope to focus on one of these traits (hopefully fostering the other traits in the process). In the hopes of creating an ever deepening connection to this faith community for our young people (and for our entire congregation), the Christian Education Committee with assistance from the Worship and Fellowship Committees is hosting *INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT*. During the Advent season, as we turn our attention toward the story of the Holy Family and anticipate the birthday of Jesus, we will be turning the focus of activities toward family as well. We will be celebrating our diverse church family with intergenerational activities each Sunday evening.

We hope you will plan to join us for these wonderful events as we seek to deepen our sense of community and help our entire Christian family feel connected to Christ and to one another.

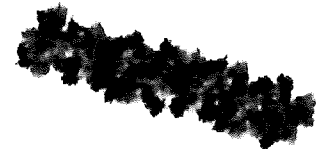
Nov. 28, 5:00pm—Hanging of the Greens Service - Join us for this special service during which we discover the meaning behind the symbols which decorate the church during Advent. A light dinner will follow.

Dec. 5, 5:00-6:00pm—Advent Party - We'll enjoy one another's company as we decorate cookies, make crafts to take home and/or donate to the Children's Inn at NIH, and play various festive games.

Dec. 12, 5:00pm—Caroling - We'll spread Advent peace, joy, hope, and love by taking the songs of the season to the doorsteps of members and friends of the congregation. No real singing ability necessary—just a joyful heart!



Dec. 19, 5:00pm—Children's Christmas Pageant - We'll gather as the children share the story of Christmas told from the perspective of the stable animals, *A Mouse's Tale*. Then we'll share dinner which will be hosted by the Workcampers (as a fundraiser—probably spaghetti dinner).





“Keeping the Entire Congregation Informed and Involved”

Middle School Youth Group

We'll start our year of Middle School Youth Group with a lock-in at the church from Fri. Oct. 1st, 7:30pm until Sat. Oct. 2nd, 9:30am. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, flashlight, overnight toiletries, any needed meds (clearly marked), emergency form, and \$5 for late-night pizza, snacks, and breakfast. Our night will be full of food, fellowship, fun, and interactive worship. RSVP to Kendra by Monday, Sept. 27th.



Senior High Youth Group

OCTOBER'S THEME: ONE CHURCH—We'll start the month at a gathering of Presbyterian youth as we embark on a month of exploring how all Christians are part of one, global church.

Oct. 3—Presbytery-wide Senior High Youth Event at Warner-Memorial Presbyterian Church (Kensington, MD). The event is from 6-8pm (pizza dinner provided), so we'll gather at the church at 5:20pm to carpool down and should be back at the church by about 8:30pm. Adult drivers needed. \$5/person to cover cost of pizza/soda.

Oct. 10, 17, & 24—We'll meet at the church from 6:30-8:00pm for fun (games), food (snacks), friends, prayer, and discussion as we explore this month's theme.

Oct. 31—NO YOUTH—If you go trick-or-treating, consider trick-or-treating for UNICEF. Find more info at: <http://youth.unicefusa.org/trickortreat/>.



All-Youth Haunted Forest Trip

We'll be joining youth from Geneva Presbyterian Church for a trip to **Markoff's Haunted Forest** near Poolesville. Cost: \$25 (+ money for optional activities, if desired). Bring a brown bag dinner with you. We'll depart at ~5:15pm and return by 9:45pm. Departure point is TBD. This event is for all youth (grades 6-12). Waivers required. RSVP to Kendra by Fri., Oct. 8th. Adult drivers are needed.

Workcamp 2011

Car Wash Fundraiser (Oct. 10th)—We'll meet in the narthex at 9am to have a devotional and then set-up before “customers” start arriving at about 9:30am. Please bring buckets, sponges, shammy cloths, old towels, tire brushes, and some car wash soap with you!

MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION, WE PROMISE TO WASH YOUR CARS WITH CARE. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

Deposits/Covenants Due Oct. 31—If you plan to join us next June make sure that your signed covenant and \$100 deposit is in by the deadline.



SAFeway ESCRIP - Funds for Workcampers - Always at the food store? Now you can earn funds for the Workcampers while you shop at Safeway. There is **no cost** to you and our youth will benefit.

Safeway will contribute a percentage of your purchases to Potomac Presbyterian Church.

We earn between \$500 and \$700 every school year in this way!

Here's how to sign up:

- If you don't already have one, you must first obtain a Safeway club card by going in to any Safeway store.
- After you have your card, fill in the information on the form below and **mail it to me, e-mail it to me, or give me a call.**
- Use your Safeway club card whenever you shop at Safeway and that's all there is to it! **Thank you for supporting our Workcampers!** -Karen Wise

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Safeway Club Card #: _____ (11 digits)

Have I signed you up in the past? Great! I saved all your information, and will just renew you automatically again this year. You don't need to do anything! (Questions about the escrip program or want to sign up for yourself? Go to www.escrip.com) **Karen Wise, 9812 Clydesdale Street, Potomac, MD 20854, 301-299-2826** karensuewise@gmail.com, (new email address)

ANNUAL PPC STAFF REVIEW PROCESS - The Personnel Committee is beginning our annual staff review process, and **we are inviting your input.** The Personnel Committee and the Pastor, as Head of Staff, together conduct annual staff reviews. We are requesting your feedback and suggestions as we reflect on the past year, evaluate our shared ministry and envision our future as we move through the challenging period of transition. This is your opportunity to help us in this process as we consider together our service in the name of our Lord and plan for our ministry in the coming year.

If you have input – both words of appreciation and or suggestions for improvement – to share, please speak to any of the Personnel Committee members with your specific comments **no later than November 1st.** Members of the Personnel Committee are: Ed Ebert, Chair; Ed Rudnic, George Ligler, Olivia Mabeus, Susan Pereles, Larry Duncan and Karen Wise, ex-officio. You may also provide your input to any of our Elders or Deacons who will convey your comments as well as their own to the Personnel Committee.

Staff members to be evaluated are as follows: - Larry Duncan-Interim Pastor, Kendra Grams- Associate for Spiritual Development, Tom Miles-Parish Advisor, Mary Avelar- Administrative Assistant, Lindsay Chapin-Treasurer and Teresa Seldomridge-Financial Secretary. -Ed Ebert, Chair, Personnel committee

MISSION NEWS....AID FOR VICTIMS OF PAKISTAN DISASTER

The Mission Committee at its September meeting voted to contribute \$2,000 from its discretionary fund to support Presbyterian Disaster Relief in its work to aid more than 14 million people in Pakistan devastated by the record floods that began at the end of August.

Disaster relief experts estimate that the overall effects of the Pakistan floods are more horrendous than either the 2004 tsunami in the Pacific basin or the Haiti earthquake in January, 2010. An estimated 1,600 people were killed outright and about 1.5 million remained homeless in the middle of September. This heart-rending disaster follows five years of repeated earthquakes and floods that left droughts and water shortages, crippling Pakistan's agricultural system and food supply.

Yet aid from the West, while substantial, has been slow in coming and relatively limited compared to responses to earlier natural disasters.

Three reasons have been offered for the relative slowness and limited supply of Western aid, including from charitable organizations and private donors in the United States: the initial number of fatalities was smaller than from some earlier disasters like the tsunami and the Haiti earthquake; many donor organizations and individuals are feeling "donor fatigue" after a string of extraordinary natural disasters; and many people distrust the integrity and the competence of the Pakistan government. None of these factors, though some are to some extent justified, excuse neglect of the millions of human beings now undergoing brutal physical and emotional suffering in the ravaged regions of Pakistan.

Presbyterian Disaster Relief, which has experience in Pakistan, was early on the ground. Working with ecumenical partners, PDA is distributing essential food to families and delivering critical relief to people affected by the crisis, including emergency shelter, and basic health services.

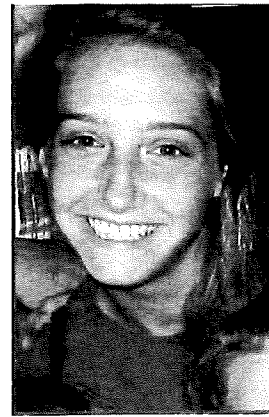
Church members wishing to add personal contributions to the contribution from our church as a whole should send checks to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700, designating the special giving account DR000038-Pakistan.

-Jim Reichley, Mission Committee

A prayer for Bangladesh from the Morgans, Missionaries serving there: O holy, loving, and all-seeing God, we pray for Mohammed Masud, who sings for alms while he slowly pushes his begging bowl down the narrow and crowded roads of Old Dhaka in Bangladesh. Because his legs are withered from a childhood illness, he drags himself along, protected from the filthy pavement only by pieces of rubber secured beneath his trunk and on his hands. Bless him, O Lord, to receive enough gifts from passersby to feed himself again, this day; and bless him with the assurance that your loving gaze is ever upon him. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen

WORSHIP COMMITTEE PLANS FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

DECORATIONS - The Worship Committee is beginning to plan the church decorations for Advent and Christmas. If you are interested in coordinating the project, being on a committee, or helping in any way, please contact Mary Margaret Smith at mmjs44@gmail.com or 301-299-3331.



Meet the People in the Pew – Emily Petti

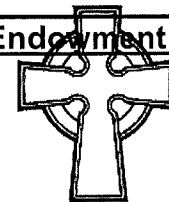
Born and raised at Potomac Presbyterian Church! There aren't many church members who can say that, but Emily Petti is one who can. It was Emily's two brothers, Chris and Carl Atwood, who chose PPC as the family's church when they were in elementary school and before Emily was born. Emily's father, Matt Petti, and mother, Wendy, were married at the church, and Wendy's parents, Jean and Pete Fidler, also became members. Emily was born in 1994 and has called the church home ever since.

Emily was baptized at PPC, filled the role of Baby Jesus at her first Christmas pageant, attended Sunday School, Children's Choir, and also has played in the Jesus Birthday Band (oboe/flute) and in the Handbell Choir. She has attended three Workcamps and has loved each experience, with her favorite being her first Workcamp in Shelby, Michigan. Her work crew there spanned a wide range of ages – from high school freshman to college freshman – but despite the age differences, her crew became very close. She is looking forward to Workcamp again this year.

Emily has enjoyed taking classes in Government, US History, and Ancient History, likes languages, and has also enjoyed studying religion. She plays soccer – both with a school team and on an outside team. She enjoyed teaching herself to play the guitar over the summer. As a junior at Churchill High School, she hasn't yet made up her mind about a college preference, but says she loves New York City, and that is definitely something she will be considering for the future. One of her favorite memories is of a trip to Italy with her parents during her 8th grade spring break. She left her cell phone at home, didn't have access to the internet, was completely disconnected, and STILL managed to have a great time!

Her confirmation retreat was especially meaningful to Emily. There were 14 young people in the confirmation class and they became very close and very good friends. Workcamp also helped to solidify these relationships. These strong friendships are a big part of Emily's life at Potomac Presbyterian Church and they are what she immediately thinks of when asked about her favorite church memories. *–Contributed by Karen Wise*

Endowment Committee



But what are good works?

Only those which are done out of true faith,
In accordance with the Law of God, and for his glory,
And not those based on our own opinion or on the traditions of men.
The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 91, 1562

For information on the General Endowment, Memorial Endowments and Steeple Society please see Rev. Larry Duncan or any member of the Endowment Committee:

Chris Dowd, Chair

David Fowler

Gregg Johnson

Elsie Reid

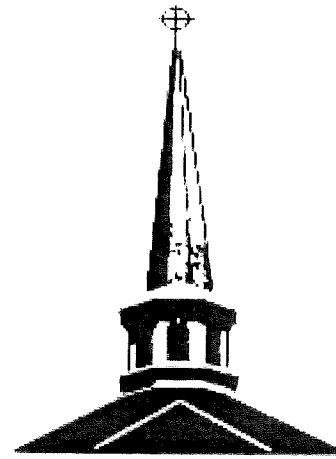
Ed Tennent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2010</h1>						
					1 7:30 p.m. Middle School Lock-In	2
3 World Communion Sunday 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Communion 12:00 p.m. Congregational Mtg - Election of Officers 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Presbytery-wide Senior High Youth Event	4 9:30 a.m. Art Class Resumes 6:00 p.m. Shepherd Group Meeting	5 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues) 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee	6 9:30 a.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	7 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:00 p.m. Officer Training 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	8	9
10 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Workcamp Car Wash 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:00 -5:30 p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group	11 9:30 a.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon)	12 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 nd & 4 th Tues.)	13 9:30 a.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	14 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:00 p.m. Officer Training 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	15 STP Deadline 5:15 p.m. All-Youth Trip to Haunted Forest with Geneva Pres.	16 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
17 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Tailgate Party / Calvin Bowl 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group	18 9:30 a.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	19 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 3:00 p.m. Manor Care Service 7:30 p.m. Endowment Committee	20 9:30 a.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	21 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:00 p.m. Officer Training 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	22	23
24 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. Ingleside Service 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group	25 9:30 a.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	26 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 nd & 4 th Tues.)	27 9:30 a.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	28 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 7:00 p.m. Officer Training Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	29	30
31 Reformation Sunday~ Kirkin' of the Tartan 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Third Grade Bibles 12:00 p.m. Fellowship						

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007
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Steeple To People



Potomac Presbyterian Church
November 2010

NEWS FROM REV. DUNCAN.....

Over the years, there have been many creative ways employed to fill the church coffers. Before the Protestant Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church had a practice called the selling of indulgences. For a few coppers, the priest would promise to pray one's dear departed soul from purgatory right into heaven. Later on, many churches in our country rented pews to families. Can you imagine, season tickets to Potomac Presbyterian! Funeral homes actually paid some churches to have the right to place hand held fans in the sanctuary advertising their establishment. And of course, who can ever forget the time shares to Heritage Village sold by the now defunct PTL club and Jim and Tammy Baker.

There have also been many motives used to encourage people to share their assets with the church. Ministers used everything from fear to guilt to get their members to open their purses and wallets. They have played upon a congregation's sympathies or tugged at their heartstrings in order to meet budget. In other situations, some ministers have pointed to the success of church programs and spoke of what the church intends for the future in hopes of inspiring people to contribute.

All of these methods and motives have been successful at times, but I believe that there is a better way, a way more faithful to scripture and in keeping with our Reformed Faith. Rather than using gimmicks or coercing our folks to give, I think the church simply needs to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to keep before its people the truly amazing grace of God, and to remind them of the many blessings we have received from the gracious hands of our Lord.

I believe this is the proper approach to stewardship because God's graciousness prompts gratitude, and grateful hearts become generous hearts. When people are reminded of all that God has done for them, they then do not give out of obligation, but out of thankfulness. They are not tight fisted, but open handed. They do not count the costs, but count the manifold ways their gifts can bless the church and its people.

I hope that as our stewardship season begins this month that you will remember and be thankful for the "Amazing Grace" of God and respond accordingly.

Sincerely,
Larry

Larry Duncan, *Interim Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Advisor*
Kendra Grams, *Associate for Spiritual Development*

ADULT EDUCATION

LIBRARY CLASS- November 7 – Melissa Kirkpatrick, "Jonathan Edwards and the Great Awakening"

November 14 – Rob Wescott, "Church vs. State: Thinking About the Proper Size and Role of Government"

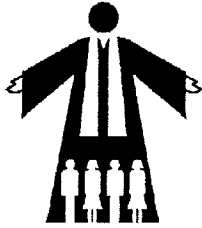
November 21 – Jim Reichley, "The Role of Religion in the Midterm Elections"

November 28- Rev. Carla Gorrell, "Immigrant Ministries and Mission"

FELLOWSHIP HALL CLASS – Rev. Duncan – "The Kingdom Experiment"

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by E-mail to steepoop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office. STP now available on the website, www.potomacpresbyterianchurch.org

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROGRESS UPDATE



The PPC Church Information Form (CIF) was posted to the Presbyterian Church USA website (www.pcusa.org) in September and, since then, we have been blessed with strong interest from a large number of pastors! The CIF can also be found at www.potomacpresbyterianchurch.org.

As of mid-October, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has received over 75 applications from pastors from all over the country. The PNC has begun evaluating the submissions and discerning which candidates would be best suited for PPC and its members.

The PNC is working diligently, reviewing the Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) that have been submitted and meeting weekly to review the candidates, evaluate their submissions and determine which candidates will be invited to continue in the process.

The candidates in whom the PNC has an interest have been asked to submit additional information, sermon tapes and other materials.

Over the next few months, the PNC will continue to evaluate PIFs and begin performing telephone interviews and personal interviews, hearing candidates preach and, ultimately, heeding the call of Christ to select the next pastor for PPC. We ask the congregation's patience as the PNC carefully works through this important process.

The PNC has established an email address (potomacprespnc@gmail.com). If you know of any pastors you would like to recommend to the PNC, please email the PNC or speak to a PNC member. As always, all comments, questions and suggestions from the congregation are welcome. The PNC appreciates the support we have received from the congregation and we ask for your prayers as we search for our next pastor.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee: Rob Wescott – Co-Chair, Cathryn White – Co-Chair, Doug Baarman, Joyce Jenkins, Paul Mamalian, Bob Plumb, Sonia Russo, Greta Van Brunt

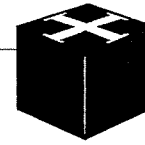
Notes from the Session Cal Reid, Clerk of Session

The focus of the October Session meeting was on staff/personnel issues in executive session.

Reverend Duncan has prepared a memo to our officers that outlines expectations for our Shepherd Groups. Each active household has been assigned to a Shepherd Group to facilitate contact with a church officer and to encourage two-way communication.

During the October meeting, Stewardship presented a proposed asking budget for 2011 that was assembled from inputs of the various church committees. Session approval of this asking budget now allows for this budget to be used during the Stewardship season in November. Congregational response via individual pledges for 2011 will forecast the viability of the asking budget.

Property Committee is arranging for web page training which will be offered to a representative of each church committee. These representatives will become the content managers for each section of the church's new web page. Cal Reid, 10/20/10



DEACON'S CORNER -

These days I am involved in a work position within a recently formed University Department of Performing Arts and one of the focal areas - as we "evolve" - is that of addressing "conflict transformation". I think of our church family as we develop new arenas, support new staff and welcome congregants over the next few years. Certainly change has occurred within our Deacon's group, with constructive dialogue and discussions of new paradigms being presented.

At my office we are called upon to develop capacities to envision and engage in change processes at all levels of relationships. "The dialogues that occur are thought of as direct interactions between people and groups. The communicative abilities to exchange ideas and seek ways forward toward solutions are key". I think of the recent initiative within personnel at PPC to invite the congregation to provide input during the staff review process, and of our staff keeping an open door policy---listening, participating in conversations, whether at committee meetings or on a one to one basis. As we seek change, balanced with stability, I shall also think on the treasure that PPC has been to me, my family and others in our congregation. –Susan Hougen



..... Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; *Members of the Armed Forces; Teresa Cox, David Boyd's sister; Stephen Kirchner, Jamey and Debbie Leathers, brother and sister-in-law of Susan Mitchell; Compton Jones, recovering at home; Virginia Savage, recovering at home; Mary Larkin, mother of Penny Boyd, in the hospital in Texas; Sonia Russo, recovering from surgery at home; Patty Dunnavant, recovering at the Wasserman Center in Rockville; Claude Gordon, at the Lutheran Home, Room PC190; John and Jean Hummon and family on the loss of their brother-in-law, Edward Rankin in September 2010.*

Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to Kathy McMahon's family upon her death. We share with them in their grief, but we also share with them in the hope of the resurrection and eternal life for those we love.

Congratulations to Scott and Laura (Graham) Simpson on the birth of their daughter, Cassia Jane, on September 16, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Proud big brother is Charles Raymond and grateful grandparents are Paddy and David Simpson.

Also congratulations to Shana Stump and Brian Steensland on the birth of their daughter, Minna Stump Steensland, on October 8, in Indianapolis. Proud grandparents are Carolyn and David Stump.

And congratulations to Amy and Paul Schoenhard and big sister, Elizabeth, on the birth of, Aidan Drake Schoenhard, on October 10, 3 lbs. 2 oz. Proud grandparents are Frances and George Ligler.

New Address: Ed Clark's new address is 2484 Draymohr Court, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466. He will keep his P.O. Box long term and his mobile number will remain: 301-520-9166.

From the Worship Committee.....



HANGING OF THE GREENS -November 28, 2010 5:00 pm

- ~Informal service ~The First Sunday of Advent ~ Sing Christmas carols
- ~Decorate the Sanctuary ~ Learn the meaning of the Advent symbols
- ~Lite dinner follows at 5:45 pm

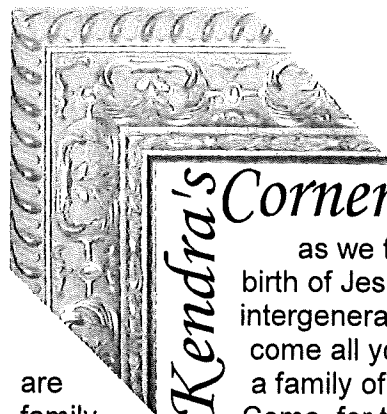
YOU ALSO CAN HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

- Bring greens (pine, spruce, hemlock) to church on **Nov. 28 and Dec. 1**
- Complete the Decorations: **December 4 9:00 AM** (Outside, Fellowship Hall, Narthex, and Sanctuary) and **Dec. 22 10:00 AM** (Sanctuary Pew Candles)
- Make an Advent/Christmas Decorations Donation by putting a contribution in a "Sanctuary Flower Fund" envelope in the offering plate or the "Advent/Christmas decorations BOX" in the church office. Or mail to the church office. Memorial and Honor dedications will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletin. Excess funds will be donated to a charity to be selected by the Mission Committee.

In 2009, after we decorated the church for Christmas, including the purchase of a large artificial tree for the Sanctuary, we sent \$229.27 to the Manna Food Center of Montgomery County. Also, we sent \$1,189.13 to the Mission Committee for distribution after we completed our 2010 Palm Sunday and Easter decorations. Typically, excess funds from Easter donations have gone to Montgomery County Hospice.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE SANCTUARY FLOWER FUND CONTINUES TO BE A WAY TO REMEMBER, HONOR AND CELEBRATE PEOPLE AND DATES IN YOUR LIFE. THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF DEDICATIONS ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY AND ALL FUNDS STAY IN THE FLOWER FUND TO INSURE THAT WE ALWAYS HAVE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS EVERY SUNDAY. OCCASIONALLY NEW VASES TO HOLD THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE PURCHASED WITH THE FUND.

Prayers for Bangladesh from the Morgans, Missionaries serving there: O God of mercy, we pray for Mujahed, a fifteen-year-old boy severely burned by hot grease while working in a small, roadside restaurant in a poor area of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has lost the fingers on his left hand and is undergoing skin grafting there to heal his extensive wound. His employer has accepted no responsibility for his injury. Since his father long ago deserted him, and his mother, now remarried, refuses to take him in, no one in his family has visited him during his one-and-a-half months in the hospital; and after his discharge, he has nowhere to go. He anticipates his life only with the words, "I will live." Lord, look upon this child and anoint him with your mercy and grace. Take him into your arms and show him your everlasting love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Amen.



are family.

time to rest in the gift of community that God has given us.

Nov. 28, 5:00pm—Hanging of the Greens Service

Join us for this special service during which we discover the meaning behind the symbols which decorate the church during Advent. A light dinner will follow.

Dec. 5, 5:00-6:00pm—Advent Party

We'll enjoy one another's company as we decorate cookies, make crafts to take home and/or donate to the Children's Inn at NIH, and play various festive games.

Dec. 12, 5:00pm—Caroling

We'll spread Advent peace, joy, hope, and love by taking the songs of the season to the doorsteps of members and friends of the congregation. No real singing ability necessary—just a joyful heart!

Dec. 19, 5:00pm—Children's Christmas Pageant

We'll gather as the children share the story of Christmas told from the perspective of the stable animals, *A Mouse's Tale*. Then we'll share dinner which will be hosted by the Workcampers (as a fundraiser—probably spaghetti dinner).

If you feel particularly full of Christmas joy this season, we invite you to share that joy by stepping forward to make our shared time together more blessed for all.

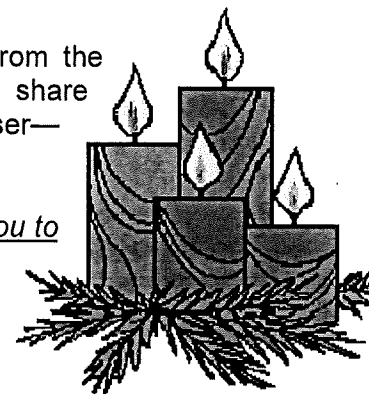
Volunteers are needed to help organize the following for our Dec. 5th Advent Party:

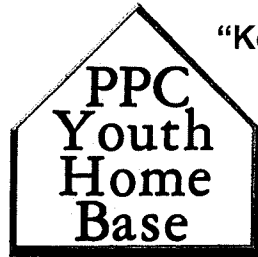
- crafts
- games
- cookie decorating

Volunteers are needed to help with the Children's Christmas Pageant in the following ways:

- Pageant Director
- Pageant Assistant Director
- Sound
- Supervise children during dress rehearsal
- Costumes
- Videography
- Photography
- Set-up and take-down simple set

Please talk to me (Kendra) if you are able to help out any way, big or small. Every role is important as we prepare to welcome the Christ child!





“Keeping the Entire Congregation Informed and Involved”

Middle School Youth Group

Nov. 5—We'll meet at the church from 6:30-9:30pm and share dinner before a night of fellowship & fun, Bible study, and prayer. Grades 6-8. FRIENDS WELCOME!

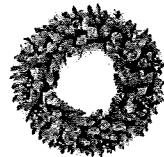
Senior High Youth Group

NOVEMBER'S THEME: HOMELESSNESS—This month we are going to take a look at homelessness from a Christian perspective. What is it like to be homeless? What are the causes of homelessness? What can we do? What have other Christians/people of faith done? What does God ask/expect us to do?

Nov. 7—We'll meet at the church from 6:30-8:00pm for fun (games), food (snacks), friends, prayer, and discussion as we begin to look at the reality of homelessness.

Nov. 12-14—The Pilgrimage Senior High Youth Retreat

Nov. 21—We'll meet at the church from 6:30-8:00pm for fun (games), food (snacks), friends, prayer, and discussion to talk more about what we can do in response to homelessness.



Making your Christmas shopping list?

Don't forget the Workcamp

Alternative Gift Card Sales & Silent Auction

This year to raise money for their June 2011 Workcamp (Youth Mission Trip) to Hammond, Indiana, the youth will be hosting two great opportunities to complete your Christmas shopping while supporting a great cause!

- **Alternative Gift Cards**—Perfect for that person on your list who has everything! Make a donation to the Workcamp in honor of your loved one. We'll supply you with a handmade card and an insert explaining our mission project so that your loved one will know who they are helping this Christmas season: our youth and the residents of Hammond, Indiana whom the youth will serve.
- **Silent Auction**—Looking for that special gift for yourself or someone close to you? Look no further than our silent auction. The youth will be auctioning off their many talents as babysitters, bakers/chefs, and helpers around the house. Plus, we'll have donations from various local businesses. You might be able to snag a special meal, a special treat at the spa, special night out, a handmade baby blanket, or any number of unique gifts. Plan to check the bid board often to ensure that you aren't outbid! (If you have something that you would like to donate to the auction, please let Kendra know).

Gift Card Sales and the Silent Auction will begin on the first Sunday of Advent, **Nov. 28th and continue through Dec. 12th**. The highest bidders will be notified Dec. 13th and are welcome to make payment and pick up their items anytime thereafter—in plenty of time for Christmas (even if you need to ship things).



CHURCH LIBRARY
News

We have many books for further study of Hebrews, The Beatitudes and other Adult Ed classes. I have put them on the book cart so it will easy to find one.

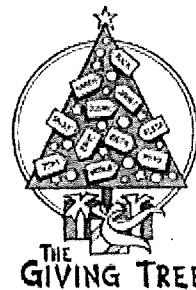
N. T. Wright has been a popular author with our congregation and his latest book, *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*, has been added to the collection. It has been written that most of what one reads here is a fresh way of exploring many familiar truths. One of the other new books is, *Practice Resurrection*, by Eugene Peterson. A quote from one review written: "How much the church would be transfigured if we could all more fully live as one with Christ in His resurrection... a life-transforming book for us all."

There isn't room to list the other new books; so, I invite you to come to the library and take a look at what is on the book carts.

If you would like to borrow a book, don't forget to sign the book card in the back of the book and then put it in the brown box on the shelf by the door.

-Nancy Tietjen

MISSION COMMITTEE...



Make a needy child's Christmas wishes come true! Visit the Mission Committee's **Gift Giving Tree** in the Fellowship Hall at the **Williamsburg Breakfast December 5** and pick a card with the name of a child who needs a present. The card will indicate the age of the child and suggested gifts. **Bring the gift to church** the following **Sunday, December 12**, and Santa's elves will deliver the gift for you. The children will be residents of the Stepping Stones Shelter or participants in Interfaith Works' Friends in Action program. Please help the Mission Committee make Christmas merrier for these children.



The Lord's Table was started in 1984 at St. Martin du Tours church in Gaithersburg. The kitchen is open 6 days a week and 9 months a year. Every day is staffed by volunteers, all faith based and of all faiths. On the **first Tuesday from October to June**, a group from Potomac churches runs the kitchen. We prepare and serve the food. The doors open at **3:30 p.m. and close at 4:30 p.m.** Our numbers have varied from 65 to 150 last winter. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Jane Stanton at 301-983-3068 or at JBStance@com.net. This is only two to four hours a month; we are generally done around 5:00 p.m.



"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"

What is Stephen Ministry? Stephen Ministry is a distinctly Christian one-on-one care giving relationship between a trained layperson and a member of the congregation who is suffering from a need, pain or crisis. *Stephen* comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need.

Why would I need a Stephen Minister? If you have a crisis such as a death or serious illness, a Stephen Minister can walk along side of you to listen, pray and care. A Stephen Minister can also be a healing presence during other difficult times and transitions such as anxiety over a job loss, struggling with being a caregiver for a spouse or parent, being lonely, worried about caring for a new baby, or challenged by teenagers. There is no need too great or too small.

How would a Stephen Minister help? A Stephen Minister would meet with you once a week for about an hour to listen without judgment and encourage you through the challenges you are facing, recognizing that God is the Caregiver. Visits in-person may be supplemented with telephone or electronic communication when appropriate. Support can be for a few weeks or stretch into a year or more. Everything you say and even your identity is confidential.

How are Stephen Ministers trained? They are laypeople from our congregation that complete 50 hours of instruction in Christian care giving prior to commissioning. Topics include listening, confidentiality and boundaries as well as ministering to specific situations such as divorce, terminal illness, and grief. Training is followed by 18 months of continuing education and peer supervision during which time the Stephen Minister may have a care receiver.

When did Stephen Ministry start at Potomac Presbyterian Church? We began Stephen Ministry in 1999 and have trained over 60 members of our congregation to be Stephen Ministers, many of whom have moved away from the area. Our current class of six Stephen Ministers from Potomac Presbyterian was commissioned in 2008 and will serve through the spring of 2011. Currently four of the six Stephen Ministers have care receivers. We would like to begin training a new class in January 2011.

Who can I talk with to get more information about Stephen Ministry either for care or if I feel called to serve as a Stephen Minister? Please contact Pastor Duncan or one of the Stephen Leaders: Karen Karch, Janet Dunlop or Sherry Johnson. All requests for care are confidential.

Also, please browse the *Care Notes* in the Narthex and help yourself if you find a topic that is helpful to you – or a friend.



Reformation Sunday

SCOTTISH-AMERICAN KIRKIN' of the TARTAN

Sunday, Oct. 31 is Reformation Sunday and PPC will celebrate with a **Kirkin' of the Tartans** starting at 10:30 am. Wear some tartan plaid, your tam o'shanter and kilt! Bring a piece of cloth like a scarf to represent your family. Hear the bagpipes play and see our men in kilts. We need flag carriers and folks to make treats for Fellowship Hour. Contact Dan Dowd at 301-299-3835 or dvdowd@aol.com. Join us for this **celebration of faith and families** with a Scottish theme.

What is Reformation Sunday? On **October 31, 1517 Martin Luther** (1483-1546) posted his 95 theses on the cathedral door in Wittenberg, Germany, beginning the **Christian Reformation**. The Reform Movement resulted in the creation of Protestant Churches, which broke away from (protested) the Roman Catholic Church. Since then, churches of the Reform Movement have celebrated that event on the Sunday closest to October 31.

What is a Kirkin'? After a Scottish uprising under "Bonnie" Prince Charlie in 1745 and their defeat by the English, an "Act of Proscription" was imposed prohibiting, upon pain of death, the Scots from speaking Gaelic, playing bagpipes, carrying weapons, and wearing native highland dress (clothing) including kilts and tartan patterns. Many highlanders lost their land (the "Clearing") and emigrated. It is said that those remaining would hide a piece of tartan on themselves and bring it to the kirk (church) once a year for a **Kirkin'** (blessing). The Proscription lasted from 1746 to 1782. At the repeal of the Act, the Church of Scotland celebrated a **Service of Family Covenant** and the clan tartans were offered as an expression of that covenant for the Lord's blessing.

In 1943, during World War II, The Reverend Doctor Peter Marshall, a Scot and Pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC (President Lincoln's church), revived the Kirkin'. Copies of his popular sermons were sold to raise funds for war relief efforts. He later became Chaplain of the U.S. Senate. The Kirkin' is a Scottish-American tradition practiced at, but not limited to, Presbyterian churches to celebrate **families**.

Endowment Committee

The Bible is for the government
of the people, by the people,
and for the people.

John Wycliffe (ca. 1324-1384)

Preface to his translation of the Bible 1382

For information on the General Endowment, Memorial Endowments and Steeple Society please see Rev. Duncan or any member of the Endowment Committee:

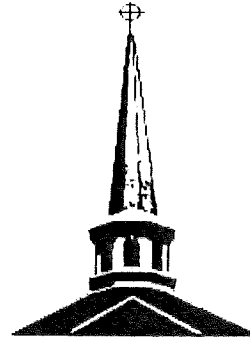
Chris Dowd, Chair David Fowler Gregg Johnson Elsie Reid Ed Tennent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2010</h1>						
	1 7:00 p.m. Officer Training	2 7:30 p.m. Personnel Committee 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues)	3 9:30 a.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	4 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	5 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Middle School Youth	6
7 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship / Communion 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 12:00 p.m. Youth Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group	8 9:30 a.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Committees (2 nd Mon)	9 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 nd & 4 th Tues.)	10 9:30 a.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	11 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	12	13 Senior High Youth Retreat Women's Craft Fair in Fellowship Hall 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
14 Senior High Youth Retreat 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	15 STP Deadline 9:30 a.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Session (3 rd Mon.)	16 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 3:00 p.m. Manor Care Service	17 9:30 a.m. Art Class 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. PNC Meeting 7:30 p.m. M.O.S. Meeting	18 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	19	20 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
21 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group	22 9:30 a.m. Art Class 7:30 p.m. Deacons (4 th Mon.)	23 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 nd & 4 th Tues.)	24 9:30 a.m. Art Class	25 Happy Thanksgiving! ~Office Closed~	26 Holiday ~Office Closed~	27
28 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 4:30 p.m. Ingleside Service 5:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens Service	29 9:30 a.m. Art Class	30				

Potomac Presbyterian Church
10301 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
301-299-6007
www.potomacpresbyterian.org

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Steeple To People

Potomac Presbyterian
Church - December 2010



NEWS FROM REV. DUNCAN.....

There is a tremendous power in hymns and carols and music. God often reveals himself through the songs we sing and the music we play. I have seen more than one average sermon rescued by the anthem sung by the choir. Music inspires our faith and touches our souls. It can make a cowardly person courageous and a weak person strong. John Calvin said that God is revealed when the word is read and proclaimed. He should have also said when the word is sung.

This especially applies to the music of Christmas. Ever since the angelic chorus filled the night time sky with their lyrics that a savior was born, music has played a prominent role in the celebration of the incarnation.

I did not realize just how powerful music could be, I did not know just how special it was until a group from our church went caroling at the Presbyterian Home in Summerville, S.C. We had made our rounds, singing down the halls and the corridors of that nursing home, trying to spread a little Christmas cheer when a young lady came up to me and asked if our ensemble might go to her mother's room and sing several carols.

We had several more stops to make before returning to the church for hot cider and cookies, but we decided to spare a few minutes and go and sing.

We were finishing the second stanza of "Silent Night" out in the hallway at the mother's room when the daughter appeared from behind the curtain with tears in her eyes.

I looked at her and said, "I didn't think we sounded that bad," when the daughter replied, "You don't understand. My mother sang "Silent Night" with you. It is the first words she has uttered in over a year." There was not a dry eye among us as we came to grips with the miracle which had unfolded before our very eyes that night.

The prophet Isaiah said that when the Messiah came it would mean good news to the poor and the recovery of sight to the blind. And based upon what occurred in that nursing home, I would like to add "finding voice for those who could not speak." Christ had come to that lady that night and to us all through the gift of Christmas songs. I hope that all of you will pay close attention to the music of Christmas and participate in that music as we go caroling on December 12.

-Larry

Prayer: After we sing the familiar carols of Christmas, Lord, speak to our hearts and minds anew so that with shepherds and wise men, we will once again marvel over the Christmas miracle of when the word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Larry Duncan, *Interim Pastor*
O. Thomas Miles, *Parish Advisor*
Kendra Grams, *Associate for Spiritual Development*

ADULT EDUCATION

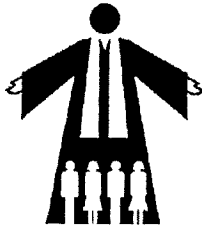
Dec. 5 - No Class – Williamsburg Breakfast

LIBRARY CLASS-

Dec. 12, 19 – Bill Malone, *Origins of Advent in the Old Testament*

Dec. 26 – No Class

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE articles are welcomed. Please submit by the 15th of each month by E-mail to steepeop@hotmail.com or place in "Steeple to People" box in the church office. STP now available on the website, www.potomacpresbyterianchurch.org



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROGRESS UPDATE

As of mid-November, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has received over 100 applications from pastors from all over the country and from around the world!

We have reviewed all of the Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) and have begun to narrow the field of candidates. We requested sermons from select pastors and we are now listening to CDs, DVDs, MP3s, weblinks and even the occasional cassette!

While we are continuing to review PIFs and listening to sermons, we have also begun telephone interviews with pastors who are at the top of our list!

We are making steady progress and we are excited to be moving into this next phase of selection and evaluation. Over the next few months, we will continue to evaluate PIFs, listen to sermons, conduct telephone and personal interviews, listen to candidates preach and, ultimately, make a recommendation to the congregation for its approval. We ask the congregation's patience and prayers as we carefully work through this important process.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee: Rob Wescott – Co-Chair, Cathryn White – Co-Chair, Doug Baarman, Joyce Jenkins, Paul Mamalian, Bob Plumb, Sonia Russo, Greta Van Brunt

Notes from the Session Cal Reid, Clerk of Session

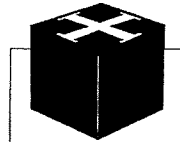
During the regular November meeting of the Session, the Elders received a proposed job description for a bridging pastor as presented by the reactivated Interim Pastor Search Committee. The bridging pastor will lead the church and Session from the time of Reverend Duncan's departure in January until a new Senior Pastor is chosen by the congregation. The Elders also received data from the Personnel Committee on the salary/contractual requirements for a bridging pastor.

Finance/Stewardship briefed the Session on the Stewardship Drive that will take place in November. Concerns were expressed over PPC's financial picture for 2011. It is probably also worth noting that the Session has received a letter from National Capital Presbytery regarding their mission receipts for 2010. According to the letter, many congregations are stretched this year and are finding it difficult to meet their pledges to presbytery in support of mission projects.

Short subjects:

- The annual Congregational Meeting was scheduled for the second Sunday in February 2011.
- Gregg Johnson has been elected as Chair by the Endowment Committee.
- There will be one 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Communion Service rather than the more customary two services.
- Worship Committee asked that it be noted that giving in recognition of Cindy Wright's retirement has reached \$6770.

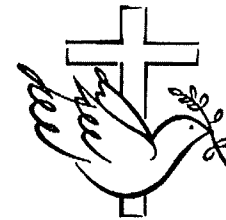
Cal Reid, 11/17/10



DEACON'S CORNER -

As many of you know, in September I experienced two life changing events within days of each other. My daughter, Betsey, married the love of her life and my stepfather and dear friend, Bob Tietjen, died. I cannot express the great joy and profound sadness surrounding me and my family during this time. As we welcomed Elliot into our family, we had to say goodbye to Bob. We were elated to witness Betsey beginning her new life, but were too overcome with grief to be happy for Bob as he began his new life. I know the angels were singing during both of these times and the astounding presence and power of God was pervasive.

How awesome it is to have Someone who can rejoice with you *and* give you peace and comfort during the transitions and seasons of life. The reality of God during times of pleasure and sorrow is overwhelming and incomprehensible and I am blessed to feel His presence in my daily life. "How Great Thou Art".
-Beth Rudnic



*Our
prayers are
with.....*

..... Vicky Dunlop, Doug Dunlop's sister; *Members of the Armed Forces*; Teresa Cox, David Boyd's sister; Stephen Kirchner, Jamey and Debbie Leathers, brother and sister-in-law of Susan Mitchell; Mary Larkin, mother of Penny Boyd, in the hospital in Texas; Patty Dunnavant, having hip replacement surgery at Holy Cross Hospital on Nov. 23; Claude Gordon, at the Lutheran Home, Room PC190; Carolyn Stump; Alyce Tamzarian recovering from knee surgery in Boulder, Co. Her address there is: c/o Fellows Family, 205 Inca Parkway, Boulder, CO 80303; Silvia Fitton, mother of Bobbe Hartzog, in the hospital in Michigan; Merrily Tovmassian.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to Eileen Crawford's family upon her death November 3. We share with them in their grief, but we also share with them in the hope of the resurrection and eternal life for those we love.

Congratulations to John and Lindsey Simpson on the birth of their son, Miles Shepard, on Thursday, November 18, in New York City. Proud grandparents are Paddy and David Simpson.

Prayers for Bangladesh from the Morgans, Missionaries serving there: God of compassion, we pray for Rohima, a grandmother living with her daughter's family in a single, tin-walled room in a poor area of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Although she has had an infection of her leg ten days, her family has hesitated to take her to the hospital for treatment because they fear what it may cost. Instead, they have relied on cheaper treatments at home, and now her infection is much worse, to the point that she can no longer walk. Lord, have mercy upon Rohima and heal her illness. Help her and all those who suffer because their families cannot afford the treatment they need. We pray in the name of Christ, who gave himself for the healing of all. Amen.

From the Worship Committee.....



YOU CAN HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

- Come to the "Hanging of the Greens" at 5:00 pm on November 28 to start the decorations.
- BRING greens (pine, spruce, hemlock and holly –without berries- branches) to church on November 27 and/or December 2.
- COMPLETE THE DECORATIONS (Outside, Fellowship Hall, Narthex, and Sanctuary) beginning at 9:00 am on Saturday December 4 AND the Sanctuary Pew Candles on December 22 at 10:00 am.
- Make an Advent / Christmas Decorations DONATION by putting a contribution in a "Sanctuary Flower Fund" envelope MARKED "CHRISTMAS" in the offering plate. Or PUT the form below in the offering plate or the "ADVENT/Christmas decorations BOX" in the church office. Or MAIL to the church office. Memorial and Honor dedications will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletin. After our decoration expenses, all excess contributions will be given to PPC's Emergency Assistance Fund for the purchase of Giant Gift Cards for the needy. Please note that our \$1,189.13 excess from Easter was sent to the First Presbyterian Church in New Orleans.

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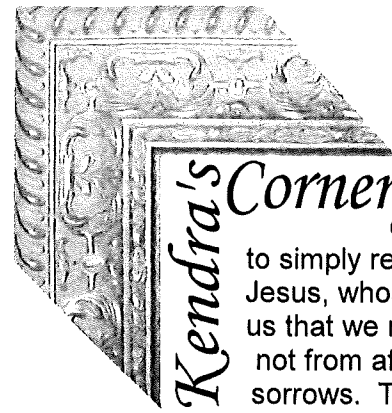
Advent /Christmas Decorations Contribution

In Memory Of

In Honor Of

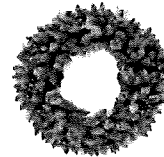
From

AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY: The Worship Committee has decided, after much investigation, to purchase 2 beautiful, matching pewter flower vases that will hold our Sunday worship flower arrangements. If you would like to be the donor of one OR both OR part of the expense, please contact Mary Margaret Smith at 301-299-3331.



In our everyday living, December is commonly known as the Holiday Season. The Season of Advent—a time of waiting, reflection, and expectation—often gets lost in the midst of shopping and parties. Everyone is going here and there and everywhere. It is ever more difficult to find people taking time out

to simply rest in the moment and focus on the great mystery of the baby Jesus, whose birth approaches. In the coming of the Christ child, God tells us that we matter so much, that God wants to walk with us in every moment, not from afar, but right where we are—in the midst of our every day joys and sorrows. That is family to God: those that are with us, beside us, helping us when we need it most. So, this Advent season, we seek to honor God's commitment to family, to love all God's children, but seeking to embrace, lift up, and rest in family in all its forms. Thus, we invite all families—nuclear families of all sizes, extended families, families of friends, school families, work families, etc.—to join as a church family this Advent Season and take time to celebrate that we, like the baby Jesus, are God's children, part of God's unbreakable families—Sunday evenings at 5pm.



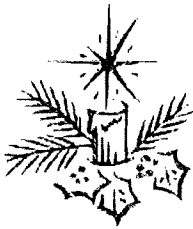
Making your Christmas shopping list?

Don't forget the Workcamp

Alternative Gift Card Sales & Silent Auction

This year to raise money for their June 2011 Workcamp (Youth Mission Trip) to Hammond, Indiana, the youth will be hosting two great opportunities to complete your Christmas shopping while supporting a great cause!

- **Alternative Gift Cards**—Perfect for that person on your list who has everything! Make a donation to the Workcamp in honor of your loved one. We'll supply you with a handmade card and an insert explaining our mission project so that your loved one will know who they are helping this Christmas season: our youth and the residents of Hammond, Indiana whom the youth will serve.
- **Silent Auction**—Looking for that special gift for yourself or someone close to you? Look no further than our silent auction. The youth will be auctioning off their many talents as babysitters, bakers/chefs, and helpers around the house. Plus, we'll have donations from various local businesses. You might be able to snag a special meal, a special treat at the spa, special night out, a handmade baby blanket, or any number of unique gifts. Plan to check the bid board often to ensure that you aren't outbid! (If you have something that you would like to donate to the auction, please let Kendra know).



Intergenerational Advent Activities

Nov. 28, 5:00pm—Hanging of the Greens Service -During this family-friendly, casual service organized by the Worship Committee, we will discover the meaning behind the symbols that decorate the church during Advent. Afterward, join us for food and fellowship as we enjoy a light dinner hosted by the Fellowship Committee.

Dec. 5, 5:00-6:00pm—Advent Party-At this causal gathering, we'll enjoy one another's company as we decorate cookies, make crafts to take home and/or donate to the Children's Inn at NIH, and create unique cards to send to the troops. Participants are encouraged to bring old Christmas cards to convert into new cards for our troops. This casual event is perfect for all ages!

Dec. 12, 5:00pm—Caroling- We'll gather at the church at 5pm to enjoy cookies and cider while "warming up" our voices. Participants are asked to bring a few Christmas treats to share (we know you will have amassed them by now) and a travel mug if you wish to carry cider with you as we carol. After a brief "warm up," we'll set out to spread Advent peace, joy, hope, and love by taking the songs of the season to the doorsteps of members and friends of the congregation. No real singing ability necessary—just a joyful heart! We hope to conclude our time of song between 6:00 & 6:30pm at which time you are more than welcome to head home to get the little ones fed and into bed OR join us for extended merriment and fellowship at the home of Del and Mary Margaret Smith (11117 Tara Road, Potomac). If you plan to join us for this time of extended merriment and fellowship, please bring a dish of heavy hors d'oeuvres or finger food to share.

Dec. 19, 5:00pm—Children's Christmas Pageant- Our children will be in the "spotlight" as they retell the Christmas story from the perspective of the stable animals and ask the congregation to join them in singing the classic carols of the season. This cute and fun play promises to be a joyful reminder of the "reason for the season" for young and old alike. Please join us following the pageant for a casual dinner hosted by the Workcampers (Youth Mission Team) as a fundraiser for their 2011 trip to Hammond, Indiana.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE PLEA

As Members, we are responsible for both the short term and long term financial security of PPC. After you make your annual pledge, please consider a year end contribution to the PPC General Endowment Fund to insure our long term sustainability. Only the income from the endowment fund is used to provide critical support to our facilities, mission work, other capital needs as well as the annual fund. The contribution of appreciated public securities may provide tax advantages for you. Please call a member of the Endowment Committee with any questions and thank you for your help in this important endeavor.

-Chris Dowd, David Fowler, Gregg Johnson, Elsie Reid, Ed Tennent, and new members - John Clouse, Bill Hartzog , Gary Niskanen

MISSION COMMITTEE, Words of Thanks, continued

"I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the **Lord's Table** to thank you for your generous donation. Your continued support means a great deal to the Gaithersburg Community Soup Kitchen and those we serve." – Dolly Swoyer, The Lord's Table

"It gives us great joy to be writing you, not only to say "thanks" but also to let you know how blessed we in **Puentes de Cristo** are for working to meet the great necessities of the people surrounding us: Food and Nutrition for children, vocational education for poor single moms, New Church Development, Self-Development for communities and pastoral leadership to small local congregations." – Andres & Gloria Garcia, PC USA Mission Co-Workers Mexico



REV. DUNCAN'S ADVENT DEVOTION

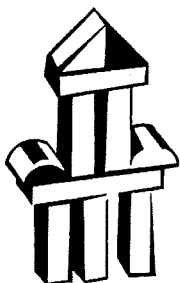
I wish you could have known my dad. He was a devout Christian man who loved life and had a wonderful sense of humor. He would always cheer me up with one of his delightful stories or colorful phrases, but in those stories there was a lot of wisdom and insight.

I can remember one night as a child when I heard strange noises outside my bedroom window and I was just sure that it was some kind of monster out to get me. I went running to my parents' bedroom and awakened them with my fears. "I am afraid that something is going to happen to me," I cried. Once my dad gathered his senses, he looked at me with this warm and comforting smile and said, "God will watch over you, son, because the Bible says that God neither slumbers nor sleeps." "This means," said my Dad, "that God works the night shift so you do not have to be afraid of the dark." I am not sure how comforted I was back then as a five year old, but I have derived a great deal of comfort and assurance as an adult from the words of my father.

God works the night shift. These words of my father have been proven by the story of the incarnation. While shepherds watched over their flocks by night, the incredible news came to them that a savior had been born. When the wise men looked at the night sky, they saw a star in the east which guided them to the one in whom the hopes and fears of all the years rested that night. And when the world was plunged into darkness by the sin and rebellion of humankind, Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the silence of the night.

A famous preacher once wrote a sermon entitled, "The Darkness Where God Was" and that is precisely where Christ is today to save us from any monster, real or imagined, which threatens to undo us.

Even today as a 58 year old minister, anytime I am fearful or the shadows loom, I remember the words of my dad, "God works the night shift," and I am comforted. - Larry
Prayer: Gracious God, your light does shine in the darkness of our lives, giving us strength and courage because we know that whatever the darkness may be, we do not have to face it alone. You are with us throughout the midnight hour of the soul and the light of your love which guides our lives and steadies our soul can never be extinguished.



MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS..... PPC Receives Gold Award



At the annual **Stepping Stones** Open House and Awards Ceremony held October 7th, Potomac Presbyterian Church was presented with a Gold Donor Award Certificate in recognition and appreciation for the generosity and dedication the congregation has shown to the shelter this past year. Presenting the award was new

Executive Director Denise Fredericks.

Denise joined the Stepping Stones Staff as Executive Director this summer, coming with a wealth of experience in the Washington area non-profit community. She has worked with programs serving low-income, under-supported youth and families for more than 13 years and is a very welcomed addition.

In addition to acknowledging the adult congregation of our church during the Awards Ceremony, Denise also lauded the PPC youth who volunteered at the shelter during Mission Week. On the morning of July 26, the morning after the "big east coast storm", seventeen youth from our church arrived to help at Stepping Stones in spite of the fact that there was no electricity. The students carried lanterns into the shelter attic and worked in the heat and darkness to stuff 140 backpacks with school supplies. These backpacks were distributed to current and past shelter residents at the annual back to school picnic. Denise noted what a wonderful contribution these youth had made. She said she would like to be awarding each of the volunteers with battery-operated fans!

Ike Leggett, County Executive, spoke at the Ceremony noting the difficult challenges our county faces today in the current economic downturn and stressed the importance of volunteers in closing the gap left by shortfalls in the county budget.

Words of Thanks.....PPC's Mission Committee receives many letters of thanks as a result of our mission giving to various local, national and international organizations. Below are just a few examples. As you read each one, know that a portion of your financial donations to PPC went to each of these organizations. So these are thanks to you.



"What awesome and faithful friends you are! Our heartfelt thanks for all you do!" – Barbara Garlock, Interim Executive Director, **Interfaith Works**



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

"Thank you for your generous donation to **Autism Speaks**. We are especially grateful for people like you whose generosity is bringing hope to families and making a difference in communities across the country." – Mark Roithmayr, President, Autism Speaks



"I want to thank you for your generous support of **Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary** during these challenging economic times. We absolutely could not have done our job training Christian leaders this academic year without your faithful support." – Dennis Hollinger, President Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

The Williamsburg Breakfast

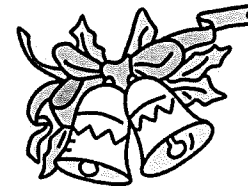
Hosted by the PPC Deacons

Celebrate the start of Advent

This year's theme:

"Christmas Joy"

Sunday, December 5 - 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall



Please bring a breakfast bread to share,
and bring a small bell to ring during carol
singing!

Children in 5th grade and younger will be served first and then go to their classrooms. Older children and youth are invited to stay and participate.

*** All leftovers will be donated to a local shelter ***

*Also, you may pick an ornament from **The Gift Giving Tree**, and spread the joy of Christmas to a family in need.*



STEPHEN MINISTRY



We have recently changed the Care Notes located in the back of the Narthex. The new titles include: *Getting through the Holidays when You've Lost a Loved One, Grieving at Christmas, What to Say to Someone who is Grieving, Handling Your Fears after the Death of a Spouse, Pulling Together as a Family after a Job Loss, Feeling Overwhelmed by Money Problems, Six Great Ways to Heal and Strengthen Your Family, Living with Cancer a Day at a Time* and for teens, *College Life: Preparing for What's Ahead*. Please help yourself if you find a topic that is helpful to you – or a friend.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2010</h1>						
			1 9:30 a.m. Final Art Class of Dec 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	2 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	3	4 9:00 a.m. Complete the Decorations 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Reformed Institute Board Meeting in Fellowship Hall
5 Workcamp Silent Auction 9:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Williamsburg Breakfast 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 5:00-6:00 p.m. Advent Party	6	7 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. PNC Meeting 7:30 p.m. Compassionate Friends (1 st Tues)	8 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 3:00 p.m. Collingswood	9 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 6:30 p.m. Dinner for Disadvantaged Community Guests 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	10	11
12 Silent Auction and Alternative Gift Card Sales Conclude 9:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling	13 7:30 p.m. Session	14 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. PNC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 nd & 4 th Tues.)	15 STP Article Deadline 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:30 p.m. M.O.S. Meeting	16 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	17	18 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
19 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant	20	21 10:30 a.m. Men's Book Group (3 rd Tues.) 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. PNC Meeting	22 10:00 a.m. Set up the Sanctuary Pew Candles	23 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service 8:00 p.m. Communion Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas!
26 No Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Fellowship	27	28 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. PNC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (2 nd & 4 th Tues.)	29	30 12:00-1:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting 8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	31	